

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A prosthesis, comprising:

a plurality of cells, each cell having a bottom end and a top end;

a flattened bulbous tail at the bottom end of at least more than one of the cells; and

an apex at the top end of each cell, the apex having a smaller surface area than the flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the bottom end of each cell includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 1, the flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the prosthesis contouring into the body of the prosthesis.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the prosthesis are staggered longitudinally.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom end;

and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A prosthesis, comprising:

a plurality of cells, each cell having a bottom end and a top end;

a flattened bulbous tail at the bottom end of each cell, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails are staggered longitudinally and each flattened bulbous tail contours into the body of the prosthesis; and

an apex at the top end of each cell, each apex having a smaller surface area than the flattened bulbous tails.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 7, further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference at the bottom end of the prosthesis;
and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference at the top end of the prosthesis.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 7, further comprising:

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference at the bottom end of the prosthesis; and

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference at the top end of the prosthesis.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A vascular graft assembly, comprising:

a tubular graft having a first end region and a second end region;

at least one prosthesis having,

a plurality of cells, each cell having a bottom end and a top end,

a flattened bulbous tail at the bottom end of at least more than one of the cells,

and

an apex at the top end of each cell, each apex having a smaller surface area than the flattened bulbous tails; and

the at least one prosthesis being located at the first end region of the graft with the bottom end of each cell of the prosthesis positioned inside the tubular graft and the top end of each cell of the prosthesis positioned beyond the first end region and external the tubular graft.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 10, wherein the bottom end of each cell of the at least one prosthesis includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 10, the flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the at least one prosthesis contouring into the body of the prosthesis.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 10, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the at least one prosthesis are staggered longitudinally.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 10, the at least one prosthesis further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 10, the at least one prosthesis further comprising:

a substantially chamferred edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially chamferred edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A prosthesis, comprising:

a plurality of cells defined by struts having a first width, each cell having a bottom end and a top end, the struts defining a surface exterior of the cell;

a flattened bulbous tail attached to the surface exterior of the cell adjacent the bottom end of at least more than one of the cells; and

a flattened bulbous tail attached to the surface exterior of the cell adjacent the top end of at least more than one of the cells ;

wherein the flattened bulbous tails embody a continuous surface that has a second width greater than the first width.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The prosthesis of claim 16, wherein the bottom end of each cell includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The prosthesis of claim 16, wherein the top end of each cell includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The prosthesis of claim 16, the flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the cells contouring into the body of the prosthesis and the flattened bulbous tails at the top end of the cells contouring into the body of the prosthesis.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The prosthesis of claim 16, wherein:

adjacent flattened bulbous tails at the bottom end of the cells are staggered longitudinally;

and

adjacent flattened bulbous tails at the top end of the cells are staggered longitudinally.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 16, further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom end;

and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 16, further comprising:

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom

end; and

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A prosthesis, comprising:

a plurality of cells defined by struts having a first width, each cell having a bottom end and a top end, the struts defining a surface exterior the cell;

a flattened bulbous tail attached to the surface exterior the cell adjacent the bottom end of each cell, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails are staggered longitudinally and each flattened bulbous tail contours into the body of the prosthesis; and

a flattened bulbous tail attached to the surface exterior the cell adjacent the top end of each cell, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails are staggered longitudinally and each flattened bulbous tail contours into the body of the prosthesis;

wherein the flattened bulbous tails embody a continuous surface that has a second width greater than the first width.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 23, further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom end;

and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The prosthesis of claim 23, further comprising:

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A vascular graft assembly, comprising:

a tubular graft having a first end region and a second end region;

at least one prosthesis having,

a plurality of cells, each cell having a bottom end and a top end,

a flattened bulbous tail at the bottom end of at least more than one of the cells,

and

a flattened bulbous tail at the top end of at least more than one of the cells; and

the at least one prosthesis being located at the first end region of the graft with the bottom end of each cell of the prosthesis positioned inside the tubular graft and the top end of each cell of the prosthesis positioned beyond the first end region and external the tubular graft.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, wherein the bottom end of each cell of the at least one prosthesis includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, wherein the top end of each cell of the at least one prosthesis includes a flattened bulbous tail.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, the flattened bulbous tails of the at least one prosthesis contouring into the body of the prosthesis.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, wherein adjacent flattened bulbous tails of the at least one prosthesis are staggered longitudinally.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, the at least one prosthesis further comprising:

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially rounded edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the top end.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The vascular graft of claim 26, the at least one prosthesis further comprising:

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the bottom end; and

a substantially chamfered edge about the circumference of the at least one prosthesis at the top end.